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Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 283974

NODIS
FOR BRZEZINSKI

FOL RPT BONN 19688 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DTD 28 NOV 77

QUOTE: S E C R E T BONN 19688

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: FOUR POWER TALKS ON SALT

1. DCM CALLED ON POLITICAL DIRECTOR BLECH THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 28 TO DELIVER THE SECRETARY'S LETTER TO GENSCHER (REFTEL). DISARMAMENT COMMISSIONER RUTH ACCOMPANIED BLECH. DCM COVERED THE TALKING POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL PARA 1 (A), (B), AND (C). DCM ADDED THAT U.S. EMBASSIES LONDON AND PARIS HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO APPROACH THE BRITISH AND FRENCH AND WOULD PRESUMABLY BE DOING SO IN THE COURSE OF THE DAY. BLECH SAID HE WOULD ASK THE GERMAN EMBASSIES IN LONDON
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AND PARIS TO BE IN TOUCH WITH U.S. EMBASSIES ON BRITISH AND FRENCH REACTIONS.

2. BLECH REFERRED TO A REPORT FROM VON STADEN OVER THE WEEKEND CONCERNING A CONVERSATION HE HAD WITH WARNKE. VON STADEN REPORTED A WARNKE PROPOSAL FOR BILATERAL OR QUADRIPARTITE CONSULTATIONS AT MINISTERIAL

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LEVEL, WITH WARNKE'S PARTICIPATION, ON DECEMBER 7 PRIOR TO THE QUADRIPARTITE DINNER. BLECH COMMENTED THAT, GIVEN THE TIGHT SCHEDULES OF MINISTERS ON THE 7TH, IT MIGHT BE PREFERABLE TO HAVE THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS HOLD A PREPARATORY DISCUSSION OF SALT-RELATED ISSUES THAT DAY AS THE BASIS OF MINISTERIAL REVIEW AT THE QUAD DINNER. THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS WERE SCHEDULED TO MEET IN ANY CASE THE MORNING OF DECEMBER 7. THEY COULD SCHEDULE THEIR MEETING SO AS TO COVER SALT-RELATED MATTERS IN ADDITION TO OTHER TOPICS.

3. GERMAN PREFERENCES ON HOW TO PROCEED CAN BE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS. THEIR FIRST CHOICE CONTINUES TO BE FOR A QUADRIPARTITE MEETING HELD SOME DAYS AHEAD OF DECEMBER 7. IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, THEY WOULD WELCOME BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH WARNKE SCHEDULED IN CONNECTION WITH THE LATTER'S DECEMBER 2 BRUSSELS COMITMENT. THE GERMANS WOULD PREFER TO HOLD THE BILATERAL IN BONN, AND THEY HAVE OFFERED DECEMBER 1, 2, 3, OR 5 AS POSSIBLE DATES. BLECH INDICATED HE WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY RUTH AND OTHER CIVILIAN AND MILITARY SPECIALISTS, AND HE ASSUMES U.S. WOULD HAVE SIMILAR REPRESENTATION. SO FAR AS DECEMBER 7 GOES, THEY HAVE A PREFERENCE FOR CONSULTATIONS BY POLITICAL DIRECTORS IN ORDER TO PREPARE FOR MINISTERIAL DISCUSSIONS.

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4. OTHER POINTS WHICH EMERGED FROM THE MEETING WERE: 1) VAN WELL WILL TAKE GENSCHER'S PLACE AT THE MINISTERIAL (AFTER HOSPITALIZATION GENSCHER WILL CONVALESCE AND BE ON VACATION INTO THE SECOND WEEK OF JANUARY); 2) BLECH SAID THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS NOT YET HAD CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S REACTION TO THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER, BUT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES FAVOR THE IDEA OF KEEPING THE ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPON FOR SEPARATE DISCUSSION, THAT IS NOT TREAT IT WITHIN THE PROPOSED QUADRIPARTITE TALKS ON SALT; 3) RUTH MENTIONED SEEING A NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE INDICATING FIRM SOVIET ACCEPTANCE OF WESTERN TESTING OF GROUND LAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILES BEYOND THE 600 KILOMETER LIMIT, WITH A RESTRICTION ON DEPLOYMENT BEYOND THIS LIMIT, AND SAID THE FRG WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

5. DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT TO LONDON AND PARIS. IN THIS CONNECTION, RECOMMEND IF POSSIBLE REDUCING FUTURE TRAFFIC TO EXDIS TO PERMIT QUICK LATERAL TRANSMISSION. STOESSEL UNQUOTE VANCE

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